

Hong Kong Natural History Society Report on June 2016 Outing to Tai Long Wan and Firefly Museum

21 members met at Pier 9 Central to set off to Tai Long Wan, Lantau Island. The plan of the day was to let members have a walk or swim in the morning before visiting the Firefly Museum. A few members wished to explore the archaeological site near Yi Long Wan. The path on the map passed through a village, but villagers told us that the way further on was a private area. So members could not get through using the path marked on the map and returned to the beach to see if there was a way to go along the coast. They tried to push on heading to the site as far as they could but eventually chose to return to the beach as it was a very hot day near noon. Everyone chose to return to the boat for lunch. Unfortunately, swimmers could hardly swim in Tai Long Wan on that day as the sea was full of rubbish. It was not a good day in that area because of the wind and current.



After lunch on the boat, most members attended the 20-minute talk given by Mark in the Communal Hall of the village. Mark mentioned that the firefly is a very good indicator of a clean, healthy environment. He said that statistics and surveys have shown that the number counts of fireflies in many developing areas in Hong Kong are drastically falling, especially in places like Sha Lo Tung and Tai Po Kau. Mark's vision is to see more healthy breeding of fireflies so that fireflies and humans can live in harmony under the current rapid urbanization and city development of Hong Kong.



After the talk, we all went into the small museum where Mark described the different samples of water insects there. He had also captured a white frog which had been eating up everything in the stream. Members also experienced seeing the response of the insects to signals given by a torch light in a dark room. The activity finished at about 4:00pm. The Society presented a donation of \$1,000 to the Firefly

Museum. Mark stated that the museum is in immediate need of some microscopes. He requested us to listen out for chances of getting a donation of some old microscopes from educational institutions or universities.

We returned to the pier at about 5:30. Though without a good swim or exploration to an archaeological site, we thought it was a worthwhile museum visit after all.

*Report by Mak Wei Ming
Photos by Frank Bradley*